



UU Study Abroad Report Form

Contact info at the IO.

faculty/college	Rechtsgeleerdheid
level	X bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Rechtsgeleerdheid

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	25 / 02 / 2023
end date	25 / 06 / 2023

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was pretty straight forward for me. There are tons of universities and destinations to choose from. Once you have your eye on some good options the application process works well and everything is clear what to do. It takes a little while before you know where you are going to end up but the waiting time is not too bad.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Support from at Utrecht University was really good. I got into contact with someone from the university that helped me a lot and was always really quick to respond. I did not use or need any additional counselling or help.

academic preparation

I needed no academic preparation for my exchange.

language preparation

I was visiting an English speaking country and my English was already good, so I did not need any language preparation either.

finances

Life as an exchange student in Australia is really expensive. Rent is really expensive (I paid around 440 AUD a week) and stuff like groceries and clubbing is really expensive as well. You definitely need a good financial plan before coming here. It is possible to get a job for a couple of months while here as an exchange student. If you are keen on doing daytrips and seeing more of the country apart from the city you are in you have to save a substantial amount. During your exchange I think it is fair to say you will spend 10.000 euro if not more.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The university gives you the option to choose between multiple different classes for your subject. This makes planning a lot easier. I only had to go to uni 2 days of the week which was really convenient as I lives in the cbd. The content of my studies was actually really interesting. I followed international environmental law chich was super interesting.

academic quality of education activities



The academic quality seemed really good to me. With international environmental law we had guest speakers that were on top of the field and very knowledgeable. Our professor was very good as well. Education wise Monash is a very good option.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I didn't need any additional counselling or support so not much to say here.

transfer of credits

Currently still working on my transfer of credits so again not much to say at this point.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I would for sure recommend going to as much activities as possible in the orientation week, as this is where you will make a lot of new friends. The activities themselves are a lot of fun as well like going to the night market and the Healesville sanctuary. Because there are a lot of exchange students everyone wants to make friends quickly. In the beginning I went to a lot of activities and also went out a lot which helped me make friends really quickly. In the end most of my friends in Melbourne were people I met during activities in the first two weeks.

accommodation

I lived in the CBD at Scape. There are lots of Scape's scattered throughout the city. Living at Scape is expensive. I paid around 440 AUD a week. For me it was very worth it though. The location was amazing in the middle of the CBD with an Aldi across the street and only a 5 minute walk to the Melbourne central train station. I lived in a 6 bedroom apartment with 5 others which was nice. Everything was nice and new in the apartment. Living there I also made friends with some Asian guys and girls which really added to the experience. I got to learn a bit about their culture which was fun. I would recommend living in the city as opposed to on campus because there is a lot more to do in the city. All of the clubs etc. are there and for me pretty much all of my friends lived there as well. I only had to go to uni twice a week so the travel time really wasn't that bad.

leisure & culture

The culture in Australia won't give you a big culture shock. It is a western country with morals quite like our own. In general apart from the big cities everyone goes to sleep early and wakes up early as well to make the most of their day. In Melbourne there are a lot of Asians. So Asian culture is a big thing as well. In particular the Asian food places are abundant in the city which makes for some really tasty and cheap food.

suggestions/tips

I would suggest joining a sports team if you can. I joined the Monash Uni football/soccer team and loved that. This is a good opportunity to make some Australian friends as well, which I have heard from others is sometimes kinda difficult. I would also recommend doing some other stuff than you are used to back home. I joined the Monash judo/jiu jitsu club and loved that! Be adventurous and go see the country. I did a cage dive with great white sharks in Port Lincoln and dove at some other great spots which were truly once in a lifetime experiences. Just go out and have fun. A lot of people will be in the same situation as you so you can help each other out and make friends.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain



I would for sure recommend Monash university and Melbourne as a destination. For students Melbourne might be the best destination in Australia because of the student life. Compared to Sydney or Brisbane for example there is a lot more going on in the weekends and more partying to be done if you want. It is truly a place where everyone can find what they are looking for. Not to say that Sydney and Brisbane aren't good destinations because I loved visiting both cities as well. There are a lot of cool day trips you can do from Melbourne by car like the Grampians, Philip island and Mornington peninsula which I would definitely check out. Monash in my experience is a really good uni. You can experience the big campus life and vibes there. There are a lot of food places on campus to choose from and always a lot going on. The educational level was very good.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

My advice is try new stuff while on exchange. You will like it for sure and it will be an experience you will never forget. Also, look into doing some travelling before or after you go on exchange. On the way to Australia I did some travelling to Kuala Lumpur, Borneo and Bali which was awesome.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Recht, Economie, Bestuur en Organisatie
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Rechtsgeleerdheid

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	14 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	30 / 06 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

It took more time than I expected it to take. My advice is to start the process early and ask for help if you do not fully understand something since the coordinators and the international office will be offering great help.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The counseling and support at UU was good. If you reach out by email you can usually expect fast and helpful reactions. This worked very well for me, since I sometimes was not sure what I had to do, but with a quick email my problems were solved.

academic preparation

I did not need academic preparation.

language preparation

Language preparation was not required since my high school diploma in English was enough.

finances

My advice is to save as much money as possible. Australia is an expensive country and Melbourne is an expensive city. I was glad that I saved a lot of money before going to Melbourne because this allowed me to not worry about money too much during my stay and this gave me the opportunity to travel through Australia as well.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I chose 2 law units, 1 economy unit and 1 sociology unit.

academic quality of education activities

It differed per unit for me. In 1 unit, Global Environmental law, the quality of education was really high, a lot of highly qualified guest speakers came to our lectures. The quality in the other units was alright. The exams were easier to pass than the exams in the Netherlands.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support at Monash University was amazing. If you ever need help with a pressing issue, send a mail to Deborah Lam from Monash, she was amazingly helpful to me and super fast to reply to my emails.



transfer of credits

I have yet to complete this.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There were a lot of welcoming and orientation activities. My advice is to attend them all! By going to these activities you will get to know a lot of people and directly create a group of friends.

accommodation

I stayed in a scape accomodation in Melbourne CBD. This had some advantages as well as disadvantages. I really liked living in the city, everything is close by. There is a lot of stuff happening in and around the city and always things to see or do. A lot of my friends lived in the city too so it was easy for us to go for dinner or go party together all on a walkable distance for everybody. This was harder for people who stayed on campus, because if they were to go clubbing in the city they had to take an Uber home, which is not cheap of course. A disadvantage that came with living in the city is that Monash University Clayton Campus is located quite far out of the city. It takes about an hour to get there and an hour to go back. Housing in Melbourne CDB is really expensive, my rent in scape was above 400 dollars a week. Scape itself is really nice, there is a gym and a common area where you can play pool, table tennis or play games on the PlayStation. I had my own bedroom and bathroom, but a shared kitchen and living room with 5 other people.

leisure & culture

Melbourne is a great city to live. There are a lot of bars, restaurants and other fun spots. There are also a lot of events, which are quite often free. During my stay there were multiple festivals which I attended for free, and they were great fun.

suggestions/tips

- I experienced some trouble when trying to rent cars, because almost every company refuses to rent to people who are younger then 21. So for renting cars make sure someone in your group is of this age.
- Drinks in bars and clubs in Melbourne are really expensive, if you are low on money it is a good idea to pre-game with a group before going out.
- It gets quite cold during the winter in Melbourne so definitely bring some warm clothes with you too.
- From Melbourne you can make some pretty nice daytrips by just renting a car. I can definitely recommend doing the Great Ocean Road, visit the Grampians, Mornington Peninsula and Wilsons Promontory.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would definitely recommend going to Monash University. I really enjoyed my time abroad. Monash University offers a lot of activities and creates the opportunity for you to meet a lot of other exchange students through the orientation program. Melbourne itself is a great city to stay with a lot of stuff to do.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Travel through the rest of Australia too after your exchange, it is an amazing country with a lot of stuff to see!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	14 / 02 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01/ 07 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process took some time as there were many different subject to choose from and I had to figure out how the units and points at Monash worked before choosing subjects. After deciding this many other things had to be arranged such as a visa and place to live.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Counselling from UU was very good and whenever I had a question the UU could always help me. Also when applying for the exchange we received a document that stated everything we needed to arrange prior to our exchange which made the application process a lot easier.

academic preparation

None needed

language preparation

I had some trouble with my proof of English as my VWO diploma (which normally counts as a proof of English) is older than 5 years. I could show now that I had done enough courses in English which also counted as proof of proficiency in English and didn't have to to a TOEFL test because of this.

finances

I saved money prior to going as Australia is a very expensive country to live in and go to.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Monash university

academic quality of education activities

I felt like the courses I followed were a lot easier than most courses I followed at UU. All lectures were online and I only needed to go to class for tutorials. In the tutorials, there is a focus on working together which was nice as you get to work together with a lot of people from different backgrounds. Exams for me were really easy, papers however were more difficult and this is where I learned to most.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not need a lot of counselling and support from Monash as everything was very clear from the beginning but whenever I had a question they were really helpful



transfer of credits

The university gives you access to your grades at the end of the semester and you need to give UU permission to access these grades. This is a really easy process and worked perfectly for me.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

There was 1 week of orientation and 3 of those days were especially for exchange students. This was a really nice, fun and easy way to meet new people. In those 3 days, I already made most of the friends I would have for the rest of the semester. The activities included going to the central market, climbing the highest building, and going to an animal sanctuary. In the evenings there were many parties that most people went to. The first 2 weeks were full of activities.

accommodation

I lived on campus. It was nice because I was surrounded by friends I could see daily. Also the campus is really big and there is enough to do. Every Wednesday and Thursday there are student nights in pubs nearby where everyone goes. The main negative about the campus is the price (although living in the city can also be more expensive, you can be lucky and find something cheaper). Next to this it takes at least an hour to go to the city centre.

leisure & culture

Melbourne is an amazing city to live in. Really fun neighbourhoods, amazing nightlife and beaches everywhere.

suggestions/tips

Get a job to meet locals and the pay is really good,

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would really recommend Monash. Firstly Australia is a beautiful country and amazing to travel around in. As it is an English-speaking country you can communicate with everyone and you are not stuck in an "exchange students bubble". The people at Monash are extremely welcoming and it was really easy for me to meet people and feel at home. Because most lectures are online you have a lot of freedom which is nice so you can explore the country and the city.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Do not book your return ticket as you will have time to travel and you will only know last minute when your exams are (if you have any). And get a job.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	REBO
level	bachelor's
name study programme	Exchange program Monash University Melbourne

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash
start date	15 / 02 / 2023
end date	30 / 06 / 2023

PREPARATION

exchange application process

There is a lot of administration to do before you go to Australia on an exchange program. Including your visa, a lot of administration for Monash itself and for Utrecht university. I also applied for funding at different institutions, so it was a little bit more work for me in general.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I went to a q&a, that was really helpful. When I emailed, they always provided me with an email back.

academic preparation

Not really necessary, I already had all my study points so I felt very confident going there.

language preparation

In Australia they speak English, so if your English is average, you will be fine!

finances

I worked half a year and saved up a lot of money, and I got funding as well. That is the reason that I could go, cause my parents don't support me financially and Australia is really expensive. Be aware of that!

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed different courses, I followed a criminology course, a course about native Australians, political philosophy and a course about social diversity and immigration.

academic quality of education activities

Really good, Monash is a really good university. Everything is very accessible; the teachers were great!

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Really good, the university is HUGE. So it has a big support system for her students.

transfer of credits

Easy, my equals is a program that helps you with that. But be aware of waiting a little bit!



STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Good, we had a week full of activities. We met some people there! But we did a lot of stuff on our own, it depends a little bit on yourself, do you want to be involved or not? But the introduction activities are a great way of meeting people!

accommodation

I stayed in 2 different houses, I did not want to live on campus. I think I made a very good decision! But it can be hard to get a place in Melbourne, rent costs can be high as well! The best way to get a place is if you know people or through facebook. I would definitely recommend living in the city, you get more out of the Melbourne experience.

leisure & culture

Melbourne is amazing, so many places to visit. Cafes, bars, museums, night clubs, parks, beaches, nature. There is so much to see, one of the coolest cities I ever been and I am hundred percent going back!

suggestions/tips

Enjoy it all, studying and leisure is easy to combine. Take a lot of money with you, cause activities can be expensive and while you there you don't want to miss out on everything. In the city and around the city is so much to see. Also the rest of Australia is worth a visit, combine it with some weeks of traveling!

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, hundred percent. I had an amazing experience; it is really good for your personal development to live for half a year "down under". You will become more confident, and Australia is easy to integrate. They speak English, are polite, the culture is easy to understand.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you are in doubt, do it! Half a year abroad will change a lot for you, and you will make memories for life.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info at the IO.
faculty/college	Bèta faculty
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Chemistry with minor in business management

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	01 / 03 / 2023
end date	01 / 06 / 2023

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I decided that I wanted to go outside of Europe and scouted for universities in English speaking countries outside of Europe. I applied for both an American university and Monash university in Australia, which had many open spots, making it favourable. During the application process I put all the deadlines in my agenda with an alert and just followed through the steps. Sometimes it could be confusing but I would just email for glorification and that made the whole process pretty easy.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I contacted the support for exchange multiple times with questions and the support was great

academic preparation

I did not need academic preparation, because I was doing a totally different course (business management) there than I do in Utrecht (chemistry)

language preparation

Every Dutch persons English is good enough to go there, no prep needed

finances

It was very expensive, I did not save enough and had to borrow from my parents in combination with the financial support they were already giving me. You will need 15-20k euro's for a 5-6 month exchange, think about 3k per month including trips.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The study programme was easy going, their semesters are short and you do 3-4 units at the same time, I thought it was all pretty easy. Additionally, I thought the organisation was good and had good support of their exchange coordinator. Furthermore, thought the tutors were really helpful and really want to help you achieve whatever you want.

academic quality of education activities

I really enjoyed my units, I recommend taking units outside of your expertise if you can and really try something new. I thought the academic quality was great and Monash is rated pretty good as well.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Was great, view previous answers.
transfer of credits
Still in the process, get the credits pretty late but seems easy enough. Mine don't really count towards anything but is nice to have on my graduation paper. Difficulties for me, may lay ahead.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
There are a lot of parties and nice orientation. It's different for people who live in the city and on campus. I just made some friends in the beginning and kinda hung out with them and did not really do the official orientation just the parties. However, I did go to the sports and student clubs market, which goes on for a couple days. Here I enrolled in rugby and definitely recommend joining a sports association there. It really helps integrate you with the Aussies.
accommodation
Very expensive in the city, but was good enough. I loved living in the city and not on campus. If you want to live there as well, look up: Scape, Unilodge and if you are well off: Iglu. These have great student accommodation. For a bit cheaper but still close to the city, you could use 'flatmates' (I thought that was how it was called). Friends of mine lived in between campus and the city and saved some money on rent and lived nice.
leisure & culture
Australian culture is not that impressive. However, the culture of the First Nation people (the natives) is interesting and Melbourne especially is a hub of so many different cultures which allows you to meet people from all over the world. In my Rugby team alone there were people from 6 different Asian countries and 3 different African countries.
suggestions/tips
In short: Join a club and get your accommodation from the previously mentioned places before you leave, makes your life a whole lot easier.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
If you can afford it: definitely. I had a great time, met great people and saw amazing things on my trips.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Go out of your comfort zone, do different things, meet different people and enjoy!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Graduate School of Life Sciences (GSLS)
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Science and Business Management

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	07 / 02 / 2023
end date	17 / 07 / 2023

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I prepared the required documents that were needed for my application, which was not too much/difficult. Just follow the steps and it will go smoothly.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I was kept up to date on what was required of me. Emails were sent out on when the deadlines on which specific documents were to be submitted. So, just keep that in mind and start whenever you can. That way it is already out of the way and taken care of.

academic preparation

Did not really prepare anything regarding academics. Just figuring out the units and my timetable so it fits your desires.

language preparation

None. Did my bachelor's and master's in English so that was all good. Everybody speaks English well.

finances

Saved some money beforehand by working a side job, and also worked over there in Melbourne, which was a very nice experience. Plus, you earn quite some money as the earning rates are higher. I also lend money from DUO. I still had to ask my parents for some help though, as it is just really expensive.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I ended up studying business management courses. At the start you do need to take care of your schedule and sign up on when you want to have your lectures and tutorials. This was a puzzle sometimes, but in the end it all worked out for me. Otherwise, you can also just email the teacher and ask for a swap, for me they were super chill about it and we organized it by ourselves.

academic quality of education activities

Quality was good. Interactive classes and some were quite small, but maybe that's because of the units I followed on a master's level. Friends of mine did have big classes.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad



You could contact the abroad office very easily by email and she would reply rather quickly. This was all good.
transfer of credits
You get a document which you need to share with the abroad office of UU, and then the board of examiners. The grades just got released so still working on that now, but should be fine to do.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Was very nice. I met all my friends there and there were a lot of activities, so definitely attend as much as you can.
accommodation
I stayed in the CBD, Carlton. Was a super nice neighbourhood and literally close to everything, so I am really glad with my choice. I lived at scape Queensberry, which is a good student accommodation company, although it is expensive, but you get so much back for it, it was quite impressive. My friends all lived on campus, but they also really liked their experience. Whenever they would come to the city they would share a cab, or just travel there by train, which took them a little bit over an hour. I preferred to just walk home after a day or night so I'd just be home quickly. I wanted to explore the city as best as possible and I can really say I did. Also got a job there, so my whole life was there basically, as my classes were mostly online, and only 1 in Caulfield. My friends missed out on the city part a little bit as it's just pretty far away, and they mostly stayed on campus.
leisure & culture
Heaps of stuff to do in Melbourne. Organised by Monash itself, but there is also so much going on in the city. You can find everything easily online. Also, I signed up with Monash Board Riders, that was the best decision I made. You go on surf camps and you can also skateboard, go on snow camps, also made quite some friends there, and you get to meet the locals. They organize parties and social stuff as well, it is definitely worth it. Aussies are really fun, so was really glad with my choice to join them.
suggestions/tips
Monash Board Riders! And if you ever want to live in a big city I would give it a try to live in the cbd! Although like I said, living on campus can also be cute as it is village on its own basically. And, travel whenever you have the time! Went to Tasmania during spring break, that was incredible. Hire cars/campervans and explore everything there is with your mates. I planned my units on Wednesday only, so I had heaps of time to enjoy and do fun stuff, and work as a barista. The units are quite easy as I didn't have to do a lot and I still managed to pass with super good grades.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
A 100%. Best decision of my life to go to Melbourne, Australia. Saw incredibly beautiful nature, animals and places, with lovely people around me. A very modern and big city, really different than the Netherlands. Definitely worth it!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Enjoy your time every second, time really flies. It is already over before you even know it. So go that extra mile and text/ask people to do something/hang out, you will make friends and enjoy your entire stay there.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Geesteswetenschappen (Humanities)
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Communication and Information Studies

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	06 / 02 / 2023
end date	22 / 06 / 2023

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was a bit more work than expected, but the international office does really help with listing everything that you are required to do. In the end, it was all good. However, I would recommend to start early.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The International Office was very helpful in answering questions, and they also organized several online meetings, which I appreciated. If you need to speak with someone directly, you can also call the International Office phone number. In short, there are plenty of opportunities to ask your questions. Just make sure to check your email regularly.

academic preparation

There wasn't a significant amount of academic preparation required as my English level was high enough for Monash University. The only thing that might have helped me was reading some more English books in advance, and practicing with transition words for writing essays etc. (signaal woorden).

language preparation

Not needed

finances

I have to say that Australia is quite expensive when it comes to rent and the way of living. But, it is all up to you. Do not let other people scare you, there are plenty of job opportunities in Australia and groceries are not that expensive in my opinion. (grocery shopping can be done efficiently).

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I chose 4 level 1 units: Life, Death and Morality / Psychology/ Film studies and Criminology.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was pretty good! Even though, I think that the education level is higher in the Netherlands, especially when it comes to the exams. The questioning method is not that difficult, but that also depends on the units that you have chosen.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I am very very positive about the amount of support that Monash is willing to provide. They are quite open about everything and willing to help with things as: financial issues, meeting new people, providing extensions, mental problems etc. They were very clear about this on our first day, which gave us a reassuring feeling.

transfer of credits

Still has to be done, but I don't think that will be a problem.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Monash is a very welcoming university and tries to make everyone feel at home as quick as possible. There were a lot of events organised in the first week, which was nice for meeting new people.

accommodation

I lived in an apartment with one other girl in the CBD. We managed to arrange this through Airbnb, this is a nice tip for people who are still searching for accommodation as a lot of property managers are willing to rent out their place for a longer period of time. This way, we could arrange a deal where the monthly rent was not that high.

leisure & culture

Melbourne is very multicultural! There are so many people from different cultures, which does not give you much of a 'culture shock' or something. I actually found Melbourne quite similar to Amsterdam sometimes. Melbourne is a perfect city, with the beach close-by and the night life is amazing.

suggestions/tips

I would recommend living in a suburb from Melbourne as the cbd is quite overwhelming, but I loved how close we were to everything. Some nice suburbs are: Carlton, Richmond, South Yarra, Brunswick and Fitzroy (my favourite). The suburbs are so nice! And really make Melbourne very unique.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Fraser Island (travel company: Fraser Dingo) was my favourite trip in my whole life!!! I would also recommend arranging things through a travel company. Australia is huge and there is a lot you need to know about where to start travelling and what is convenient or not. Allard travels (Instagram: australiaexpert) helped me a lot with answering questions and booking trips.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Do not let other people influence your experience of Australia, there are so many different things you can see, but that does not mean that you have to see them all! Make your own plan and focus on your own journey 😊 you can always send me an e-mail. Get in touch with the International Office to receive the contact information.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Faculteit Sociale Wetenschappen
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Psychology

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash
start date	05 / 07 / 2022
end date	02 / 02 / 2023

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Choosing the right destination and units for my exchange was very difficult (there are so many options!) and I was doubting until the day before the deadline. But after making the final decision, the application process via OSIRIS was very easy. In the beginning I wouldn't worry too much about choosing the right units, since you can still change these in the first two weeks at Monash. When you've been selected by the International Office from UU, some paperwork from Monash is left to be done. But the university is very organised, so everything is clear when you read their emails well and for me it didn't take too much time and effort.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

All good, if you ask them for help, they are very willing to give it. But you must take the first step, so don't be afraid to ask! When there were floodings in Melbourne they contacted me immediately which also felt comforting.

academic preparation

I didn't prepare that much academically. On a personal note, however, I would have liked to do some research about Australia's history as in some units it is assumed to be preknowledge. Either way it is useful and fun to have prior knowledge about the country you're going to live for a couple of months.

language preparation

Fortunately, everyone is easy to understand when they don't use their accent too much :). I was never really confident about my level of English, but I lost this insecurity during my time in Melbourne. In general, Dutch people have an above average level of English, so you shouldn't worry about this too much. In the beginning I had to get used to English education, since a lot of tutorials were about discussing course content. In these situations, I realized that I was surrounded by all native English speakers. But you'll get used to it!

finances

I knew that Australia is an expensive country to live/study in, so I financially prepared by applying for a scholarship (KF Hein Fonds is a recommendation; this really takes a lot of time and effort, but in the end it's worth it!), and I worked and loaned more. In the beginning there are some large expenses, such as your visa, flight ticket and your OSHC (when you arrange your OSHC outside of Monash, take into account that the duration of your OSHC influences the duration of your visa). But when you've finally arrived in Australia, I can say that you can make it as expensive as you'd like. For example, especially going out and alcohol is very expensive but going for dinner was cheaper than in the Netherlands. Furthermore, there are a lot of free activities on the campus and the CBD.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD



study programme (content and organisational issues)
In the end I followed three units: Crime and Inequality, Integrative Neuroscience, and Intercultural Encounters. I started off with four, but in the end, I decided to drop one unit. This process was very easy and Monash Abroad helped me with that. The content of the units was very interesting, the crime unit gave me new insights, whereas the neuroscience unit was a bit more challenging than what I was used to from UU. Personally, I wouldn't recommend the last unit, because it didn't meet my expectations and it wasn't challenging.
academic quality of education activities
I found the quality pretty good, especially in the Integrative Neuroscience unit. This was a third level unit; those are a bit more challenging but definitely doable if you already have some knowledge about the subject. It was more practical, and research focused than I was used to and we worked in smaller groups.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Pretty good, don't worry; everything will be clear in the first two weeks. In case anything is unclear, there are loads of support services at Monash. Besides academic services, there is sufficient health support at the campus, such as a doctor, dentist, and physiotherapist.
transfer of credits
Very easy, you have access to a digital transcript of your credits which you send to the Board of Examiners. Within the same week I had my credits transferred (note that the grades don't influence your GPA at UU, it's a pass/fail system).

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
I really noticed that Monash University was very used to welcome abroad students. They had loads of free activities (don't forget to sign up online in advance!), which are usually free. Furthermore, especially during orientation, many associations host stands throughout the campus and hand out free food. As I lived on campus, I basically had two orientation weeks, one of the on-campus accommodation and one of the university itself. This means the first two weeks were quite intense, but you meet so many international students and after those weeks I was at ease on the campus.
accommodation
I lived on campus, which I'm in the end very grateful for. I'd never lived on a campus before, and I am very glad that I have the real campus experience now. It's easy to get to know other exchange students and especially the Australian students (they are so open and welcoming!). In the first weeks you really create an exchange community together by participating in loads of activities organised by your hall (I lived in Roberts which was a very active hall, but I've also heard good stories about Farrer and Richardson). The only (quite big) disadvantage of living on campus is the distance from the city (approximately an hour by public transport). However, we forced ourselves to go into the CBD, study there in a café or in the State Library so in my opinion you can still get to know the city pretty good without living there.
leisure & culture
Melbourne is a very lively city, there's always something happening such as live music in a bar, festivals, and musicals. The nightlife was so much better than in Utrecht (unfortunately also so much more expensive though...). Every weekend we tried out different clubs and nice spots in the city. By living on campus, we had the opportunity to play sports together, such as tennis, football, swimming, and going to the gym. Besides all this, Melbourne has amazing nature surroundings, for example The Great Ocean Road, The Grampians, Philip Island, Mornington Peninsula, and Wilsons Promontory. Sometimes it's hard to get around without a car, so there are three options: be lucky and be friends with someone that has a car, rent a car (I would recommend extra insurance because of the wildlife), or use Flexicar (kind of similar to e-scooters in the Netherlands but



then with cars!). Tip: don't forget your international driver's license.
suggestions/tips
Share ubers while going out, since they are very expensive. We created a dinner group with all the exchanges, which was very fun, and you save some time and money for groceries. When packing, take into account that one day in Melbourne can be filled with four different seasons and that the temperature during winter can get pretty low (not as low as in the Netherlands though). Definitely take a day off in the Peninsula Hot Springs, go on a roadtrip and visit an AFL match.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
100% yes! This university wasn't my first choice; I didn't want to go that far away, and I didn't know what it had to offer. But in the end, Melbourne was the best option for my exchange. The atmosphere, nice people and amazing nature stood out to me. Besides that, Melbourne is the perfect starting point for travels once you've finished your studies. I travelled the East Coast and Tasmania which I would definitely recommend, including Greyhound to use as means of transportation. Afterwards I went to Asia which I really enjoyed!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Sounds typical but if you're doubting: just go! No matter what destination/university you choose it's going to be an adventure that you keep with you your whole life. And it is such a nice way to visit another country without study delay. In the end I found the reports online and experiences of friends the most useful source of information. Also remember everybody thinks their exchange destination was the best choice, so you probably will think that as well :).
Can students contact you for additional info and do you give us permission to put this in the student reports on our website? If yes, please write down how they can get in touch with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)
Contact info available at the IO.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

	Contact info available at the IO.
faculty/college	Humanities
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	English Language and Culture

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	12/ 07 / 2022
end date	25/ 11 / 2022

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The process is quite a long one, mine was probably even longer than most as I started researching before my first year at Utrecht University. I knew I wanted to go to Australia and made my own selection. It was quite nerve-racking as Australia seemed to be pretty popular so choosing which Universities to apply for has to be both to your liking as well as having enough spots (like choosing a University with only 2 spots as your third pick isn't that handy as those spots will most likely be taken already). Overall it is a hassle, but worth it. Paperwork and preparation a plenty. It did give some stress, but everything will turn out fine. My biggest concern was COVID coming back, but everything went quite well.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Extremely helpful and really want you to make it to your dream University and will help you the best they can, however after selection they can't do much for you, but they will help you get to that point.

academic preparation

I looked up courses that seemed like fun even if they were a bit outside my wheelhouse, but if you can show them that you would succeed in those courses most of the time it is fine.

language preparation

I study English Language and Culture, the two years that led up to my third year were my preparation.

finances

Save money before you go. I worked more and upped my student loan; I made sure I had saved quite some cash before even going. Spending in Australia is the same as in the Netherlands if not a bit more expensive, but you will most likely do more fun activities in Australia than you would in the Netherlands. I also had a part time job whilst being there as I was planning a 3 month trip after studies commenced and the pay in Australia is amazing in that regard. I made around 2000 euro (not dollar) a month for working part time (2 10-hour shifts and maybe an extra day if I wanted to, coming up to a 26 hour work week)

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

During my study at Monash University in Melbourne I picked courses that are quite different from the one I took at home. I do think that this was possible due to the fact that the courses seemed lower than at Utrecht. As a literature major I took Journalism courses so it was still essay oriented which was nice. I found the



content very interesting and I even had trouble with what courses to pick with the large variety to choose from.
academic quality of education activities
The quality is good, I liked the seminars a lot as they were very informative, but there was only one per course. The lectures were either online or non-existent which means that all you learn is during the seminars or the online lectures. I liked the teachers a lot, very kind and helpful and to me really understood the need for mental health and mental health days.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I feel like the university promotes inclusivity which is very nice. The teachers also try and are open to have conversations with if something is amiss. When my mental health wasn't doing so well they were very open to discussion in regard to postponing assignment deadlines which I had asked twice in total with my four courses.
transfer of credits
They will only transfer if you passed or fail. Something that did strike me was that 50 points is a pass, opposed to 55 which is at Utrecht and most of the Dutch education system.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme
There was a whole week of orientation activities to try to make friends, but this was mostly with other students who came from abroad. I did like the MSA club orientation where you have a wide variety of clubs you could join based on your interest.
accommodation
There is student housing, but not everyone gets in (I didn't). A part of me is glad for this as I got a room closer to the city (Hawthorn), but this meant that travel to and from took a lot longer. Due to me being closer to the city I was able to work in the CBD which was cool, but I wasn't as close to the clubs at Monash or to campus which made me skip class more often (due to mental health issues). I don't know if a community (like in the dorms) would have helped as I am also 25 and was afraid that the age difference with most students be a problem. My housemate (who was 27 and had a cute little dog) was incredibly kind and we had a very good relationship, so living with someone was very nice and could even be nicer than living by yourself as you would have a support system due to your support system being on the other side of the world.
leisure & culture
There is a lot of culture in Melbourne due to its diversity and there is a lot to do in your free time, a lot of places to visit and a lot to see. Definitely hit up the MSA club orientation and sign in with a few clubs (cost between 7 to 12 dollars or if you are a member -5 dollars per subscription). You can go to the clubs if you need a save space, great way to make friends or just have to possibility of going. The Monash Electronic Gaming Association has a whole e-sports room in which you can play video games which is super cool and in which you can make a lot of friends, the writing club has a meeting every week in which you can share and help edit stories it is just overall super nice and inclusive and everybody is happy to have you if you go to the orientation.
suggestions/tips
Hospitality jobs pay a lot of money, but you NEED to get an RSA which is an investment with costing around 200 dollars. Most places let you start working whilst you are getting it but tell you to get it in a month. Normally you are only allowed to work a maximum of 20 hours a week (40 a fortnight), look into the laws that are concerning it as I was allowed to work more due to a worker shortage. The CBD is a great place, but other suburbs are just as nice so just try to find a place that is close to where you live, you should earn around 28-30



dollar an hour, after 9 you should earn even more and Saturdays should be 150% and Sundays are 200%, festive days are 200-300%. If you want to work on Sundays because you will be making more look at places that are actually open on Sunday as A LOT of places close on that day. Also during the weekend especially Sunday there is always a surcharge of 10-15% to the bill so keep that in mind. In the end when you are going, don't forget to actually enjoy it. Sure making money is nice, and traveling after with is, is amazing, but don't forget to go enjoy every little suburb.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, I LOVED Australia. The people, the weather and Melbourne is top tier especially if you are afraid of certain creatures as I saw NONE during my stay there. I saw more spiders in the Netherlands than I did in Melbourne. I learned a lot and I think it is a great place if you want to learn something that might be a bit outside of your expertise.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you go in Dutch summer you can imagine it to be like the end of March in the Netherlands. The real cold is inside most Australian houses as they don't seem to know what isolating a house means. Most apartments have no such thing as double-sided glass to keep the warmth inside so sometimes it is colder inside than it is outside. Aside from this, "Just do it. Don't let your dreams be dreams." (Shia LeBeouf, 2016)



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	GEO
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Human Geography and Spatial Planning

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	16 / 06 / 2022
end date	25 / 10 / 2022

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process for Monash University was very clear and easy. Questions that I had were answered immediately and I received my visa within a day. Although, I had to wait a long time to receive my Proof of Enrolment.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University was very helpful in preparation for my exchange. They helped me with any questions I had. They organised a meeting with all of the students from Utrecht University going to the same destination, before leaving the Netherlands.

academic preparation

I barely had to do any academic preparation, as there were no prerequisites for the courses that I wanted to follow.

language preparation

I had already gotten my CAE (Cambridge Advanced English) certificate during high school, which meant I didn't need to do any additional English tests or preparation. I also passed English in high school, which is also sufficient for admission.

finances

Australia was very expensive, so I had to save up a lot of money before I left and also got a monthly DUO loan to finance everything. Monthly I would spend around \$2000, not included any trips.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I could follow courses from different studies. The three courses that I followed were International Business, Climate Change: From Science to Society and Big Ideas for Better Futures.

academic quality of education activities

All of my tutorials were on campus, but the lectures were online. I thought all of the courses were very easy to follow, I did not have to take any exams. The tutorials were very well prepared by the teachers, but the activities that we did in class were very easy, compared to tutorials in the Netherlands.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I have not made use of any of the support provided by Monash, but they provide study related support as well as personal support for all students.



transfer of credits

The credits that I earned abroad were very easily transferred by Utrecht University. They sent me details of what exactly I had to do to transfer my credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

As I arrived in the second semester, the orientation programme wasn't as big as if I would have arrived in the first semester. Although, the University had organised a lot of nice activities, where I was able to get to know other students and I learned a lot about the University. They organised activities such as a campus tour, free coffee and lunch, a trip to Philip Island, cinema night, etc.

accommodation

I first applied for accommodation on campus, as I wanted to live in an environment where I was able to get to meet other exchange students, but unfortunately I got waitlisted. I lived in student accommodation Iglu in South Yarra, where I lived with other international students. I really liked living a bit closer to the city centre, and not too far away from campus.

leisure & culture

As I followed three courses, I had a lot of free time during the semester. I made a lot of trips with friends that I made abroad. Melbourne has a lot to offer to students, there is a vibrant nightlife, a lot of (food) markets and museums.

suggestions/tips

I definitely advise going on exchange to Melbourne. Try to make the most of your time by exploring the city and making trips to the most beautiful places. Australia is very expensive, so try to save up a lot of money before leaving, or find a parttime job in the city, which is very easy to find. I highly recommend visiting Uluru and backpacking down the East Coast of Australia.

These are some of my favourite places in Melbourne, that I definitely recommend:

- Grazeland (food festival)
- Sint Kilda Beach
- South Melbourne Market
- Prahran Market

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, I definitely recommend going to Monash University. Melbourne is a very multicultural city, which I really liked. Although the level of education was not too high, this allowed me to make wonderful trips during and after the semester. If possible I would go back to live in Melbourne for a longer period of time.

Can students contact you for additional info and do you give us permission to put this in the student reports on our website? If yes, please write down how they can get in touch with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)

Contact info available at the IO.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Graduate School of Natural Sciences
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Business Informatics

destination city & country	Melbourne , Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	25 / 07 / 2022
end date	18 / 11 / 2022

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process consisted of multiple steps but was not too cumbersome. First, I had to write a motivational letter to the UU International Office for my application. After I had been accepted by UU, my application was sent to Monash University. Monash required me to fill in some information and got me my confirmation of enrolment afterwards. The confirmation of enrolment was needed to apply for a student visa. For me, this process took a while (> 2 weeks) so make sure you apply for your visa as soon as you receive your confirmation of enrolment. However, other students got their visa within a few days so the length of this process can vary.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Utrecht University organised a pre-departure meeting to prepare you for your exchange. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend this meeting due to other travelling plans. However, I could always ask questions to the UU international office and got timely and informative responses. Additionally, the other exchange students that also chose Monash University as their exchange university decided to make a Whatsapp groupchat. I used this groupchat to ask the other students questions about the application process, and answered some of their questions in return

academic preparation

As I did the exchange as part of my masters programme, the units I could select for my exchange were limited to units within the field of business informatics. As I was familiar with the domain of study of the chosen units, no academic preparation was needed.

language preparation

No language preparation was needed as my level of English was sufficient before coming to Australia. Monash University requires some English language proficiency requirements for inbound exchange students (found on <https://www.monash.edu/study-abroad/inbound/apply/english-requirements>). For the Netherlands, you require a final grade of 6 in English on VWO level.

finances

Due to my job in IT, I was able to pay for most of the exchange. However, Australia is a very expensive country (especially vegetables, a capsicum could cost you 5 AUD). Additionally, you should also keep in mind that you will probably spend more money than back home if you want to travel and engage in fun activities. Do not forget to temporarily stop your student-OV, as this will give you about 100 euros per month for the duration of your exchange. Additionally, Monash University requires you to purchase OSHC (Overseas Student Health Coverage) insurance. You can either purchase OSHC via Monash University, or organise it yourself. I purchased OSHC via Allianz, which was way cheaper than having Monash University organise it for you.



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I chose 4 units from the masters programme in Business Information Systems. As I only required 3 units for my masters at the UU, I decided to drop one unit during my first week at Monash University. This process was not too difficult, and friends of mine who changed units during the first week did not experience difficulties as well. Please note that for Visa eligibility, you are required to be actively enrolled in at least 3 units.

academic quality of education activities

The level of education was significantly lower than education offered in the Netherlands. The level of English by my fellow students was shockingly low (most of them did a bachelor in India or China), and some of the teaching assistants barely spoke English as well. However, this could be attributed to my chosen programme, as friends of mine did not share this experience. Academically, I did not learn a lot of new things about my field of study.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not use any counselling & support services during my time at Monash University, so I can not elaborate further on this topic. However, Monash University does have an extensive support system which you can use for both academic and personal matters.

transfer of credits

Monash University made the transfer of credits easy. It was clearly stated how to convert the credits earned at Monash to ECTS. Additionally, they used an IT system to provide UU access to my grades. However, the UU did not provide a lot of clarity on how to transfer credits. The process should consist of two simple steps. First, the international office has to download your transcript of records from Monash University and put the grades in Osiris. After that, you have to inform your board of examiners. When I contacted my board of examiners, they sent me to the Studiepunt. The Studiepunt did not quite know what to do with this information and would ask it again to the board of examiners. I am still in the process of transferring my credits.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Monash University offers an extensive welcome & orientation programme with free food, activities and knowledge sessions. It is definitely possible to make friends here, but most students that come to Australia for their entire degree are there for the purpose of studying, so they keep to themselves a bit more! For accommodation, I lived in Richardson Hall, where I made most of my friends. My friend group consisted mostly of other exchange students, as these students were most open to making new friends and engaging in fun activities. Richardson Hall had a fun welcome programme with many cool social activities.

accommodation

As I mentioned before, I lived in Richardson Hall. Together with Roberts Hall, this hall is different from the other residential halls as the hall only has one big communal kitchen. While this sounds like a disadvantage, it is a great place to socialize. As people cook at different times and some students only get takeaway, the kitchen was never too crowded.

Rent is on the expensive side, considering that the campus is located in a boring suburb called Clayton. From Clayton, it would be about 50 minutes of public transport to the city centre.

leisure & culture

I loved Melbourne culture! In Melbourne (and Australia overall), people are more open and less judgemental compared to the Netherlands. Melbourne is an international city with lots of Asian influence, which can be seen in the numerous Asian restaurants in Melbourne.



suggestions/tips
<p>Overall: make the most of your time abroad! I travelled a lot during and after the semester, making a total of ten trips. Although it is an expensive trip, going to Uluru is definitely worth it! Australia is such a beautiful country in terms of nature and culture. A few of my favourite things in Melbourne:</p> <p>Fitzroy Market: Cool market with second-hand clothes</p> <p>Grazeland: Food festival mostly visited by locals</p> <p>Prahran Market: There is a shop called Nameda's choice which has the most amazing staff and sells the most delicious dips and cheese</p> <p>Levels: Club in Melbourne playing pop, techno and R&B</p> <p>B Lucky & Sons Arcade: Fun arcade with a great variety of games and a bar</p>

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
<p>Mostly yes! If you want to study abroad for the level of education, you do not need to travel to Australia. If you want to study abroad to travel, improve your English, I would definitely recommend going to Australia. If you still have the budget after your semester abroad, I would recommend solo-backpacking through Australia (I chose the most popular East-Coast destination), as it is such an educational experience during which you will make tons of friends. Three weeks after coming back, I still miss Australian culture a lot!</p>
do you have any additional advice or comments?
-
Can students contact you for additional info and do you give us permission to put this in the student reports on our website? If yes, please write down how they can get in touch with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)
Contact info available at the IO.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Science
level	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Human Computer Interaction

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	04 / 07 / 2022
end date	31 / 01 / 2023

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was straight forward and clear. I applied 1st of December for the exchange program, got chosen for a partner university by UU in January and applied to Monash in February online. I always received detailed descriptions of what was needed and therefore, all went well. I would recommend applying to Monash as soon as you receive the email with the link and info to apply since I heard that they process the application in the order they are received and you need their Confirmation of Enrolment letter to apply for the student visa, which you only get after you have accepted Monash's offer. Applying for the student visa was easy although it requires some time to fill out the entire form. It then took over a month (about 35 days) until my student visa got granted, while others received it immediately. So, it definitely helped that I applied as early as possible since I received my visa still on time.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office was very helpful and quick to respond whenever I had a question.

academic preparation

When you choose your units, you'll have to check if the units are possible to be selected by exchange students (which is written in the unit description page on Monash's handbook) and if they have prerequisites. I chose mostly units that don't have prerequisites but some required previous knowledge in maths and programming. I got all units accepted by Monash in the end, so it all worked out.

language preparation

For my English speaking Master's I had to do a TOEFL English test, which was still valid at the time of application, so that was sufficient for applying. Other than that, I didn't do any preparation since I was already speaking English on a daily basis.

finances

I financed my semester abroad entirely with my own savings. Australia is very expensive though, so even with a loan and a grant, it's best to have savings. You can work in Australia about 20 hours per week while studying there and salaries are in general quite high here.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I chose 8 units within Monash's Information Technology course when I applied to Monash of which I took 3 units in the end. You can change your units in the first week and you can actually sit in lectures and still decide after if you want to take the unit until a certain deadline. I'd highly recommend to try units out before you



decide to take them because you don't want to get stuck with a unit you don't really like since handbook descriptions can be vague. I chose Internet Application Development, User Interface Design and Usability and Project Management. Also talk to other students that are studying already a bit longer at Monash doing a similar course since they can tell you which ones they liked.
academic quality of education activities
Units at Monash were similar to UU courses: they require a lot of group work, assignments during the semester and some have exams at the end. However, I would say that the expectations are a bit lower at Monash compared to UU and therefore, the workload is not as high as in UU. They also provide you with a lot more help for assignments. They also always remind you multiple times of upcoming assignment deadlines and you can submit assignments late (that would cause a penalty in the grade).
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I didn't need any counselling but Monash offers a lot of help in general. Monash abroad is always there to help and can be surely asked for anything you need. There are doctors on campus, you can easily make appointments online for them. Monash has a student desk, which is also very helpful for any questions regarding student card, concession cards or generally about studying there etc. Every unit has multiple tutors. Usually, you even get assigned to a specific tutor, which would be your point of contact whenever you have questions or problems in your unit.
transfer of credits
So far, it is an easy process: you receive a link for a platform which enables you to send your transcript of records to UU. Then you would have to tell your Board of Examiners about your results etc.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Monash has a great welcome week and pre-welcome week (for internationals). Make sure you'll arrive early enough because they offer free trips for international students! It was a trip to the Moonlit sanctuary, Philipp Island to see penguins and the Puffin Billy. Also, there are lots of opportunities to grab freebies and free food during the orientation week, which was great. Of course, that's also the week where you can meet new people, too.

accommodation

I applied to Monash's on-campus accommodation but only for the studios in February (as soon as I received the email about applying to Monash). I didn't get it though as the studios are on high demand. Only one other exchange student got a studio and she applied already in January, therefore, if you really want to go for the studio, you should apply as soon as you know you will go to Monash. You don't need to be accepted by Monash when you apply for on-campus accommodation and you can still decline the offer later on if you change your mind or end up not going to Monash. So, I stayed off-campus in St. Kilda East. It is actually not too hard to get accommodation here if you are not extremely on budget. I am pretty sure it is way harder to get a room in Utrecht as an international student. I put an ad up in flatmates.com.au about a week before arrival and received quite a lot of messages. I then scheduled around 4 to 5 inspections for my second day in Melbourne. Just a few days after I got a place. My first two weeks in Melbourne I stayed in an Airbnb until I moved to my place. If you are renting and receiving a lease for a place, Monash offers services for rental in case of questions or problems that arise. I sent them my lease to check and they quickly responded that it was all good. Many other exchange students found a room through the Facebook group fairy floss, which receives new ads every day but there's also a lot of competition for the cheap and nice rooms. In the end, I was happy not to be on campus even though I know how many students loved their experience on campus. But it is a pain to get to the city and back if you live in Clayton in the evening or night and Uber is also expensive. Since I relied on public



transport, I was happy to get easily around from where I lived with many trains and trams going to any direction and being in the city in 15 minutes. Trains run the whole night during the weekend. If I'd be looking again for a place to live, I'd probably look in South Yarrarah, Richmond or Caulfield since they have good train connections to Clayton and multiple trains going in different directions from there.

leisure & culture

I have been to Australia before and did a long trip on the East coast from Melbourne to Cairns, so I have seen some places in Australia already before my exchange. Melbourne is most likely the best city to be in Australia! There is a lot to do there from art exhibitions to gigs and festivals, to clubbing, (op) shopping (opportunity shops are a great way to buy cheap second hand stuff), beaches, nature, surfing (outside of Melbourne in Philipp Island or Torquay or the wave pool there), skating, snowboarding (in Victoria but only a few hours away) and Monash offers a lot of clubs you can join to spend your leisure time in. I also went on some trips, for example the Great Ocean Road and New Zealand. I also think Australians are the nicest and most helpful people, so it really made me feel like home when I went there.

suggestions/tips

Melbourne is huge. So, if it takes 30 minutes to get to a place that is considered very quick. Most likely it will take you an hour or more to get anywhere by public transport. It took me exactly one hour door-to-door to go to Clayton campus but I got so used to it that it didn't bother me. What bothered me though was that trains weren't that frequent anymore in the evening going back to the City from Clayton. I had one class that ended at 9pm and it was always annoying to get home. It usually took longer than an hour with waiting times sometimes up to half an hour (sometimes the tram just wouldn't come for a long time). That being said, I still preferred being closer to the city and if you can, just don't choose classes in the evening.

Winter can still be cold, even though not as cold as Dutch winters, and they have heaters, which are supposed to not be turned on while you're not at home or during the night, which makes your room often cold. So, bring warm clothes if you're here in July/August. Melbourne is also known for its unpredictable weather, so it can also rain a lot here.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, Melbourne is a great city to be and there's so many things to do here! Australians are very easy going and it's easy to make friends here. Monash itself was always very helpful with the whole exchange process. I never really felt left alone.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

An exchange in Australia is an easy way to experience life here as it is easy to get a student visa and studying in Australia is not extremely hard, so you have plenty of time to spend with other activities. I'd highly recommend to go and not miss this opportunity!



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Geneeskunde
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Biomedische Wetenschappen

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	15 / 07 / 2022
end date	03 / 12 / 2022

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process does consume some time and work. You have to apply for a visa, get special health insurance and follow a lot of steps to fulfil your application. Nevertheless, Monash University does send very clear emails about what to do and which steps when and how to make. In addition, the UU and Monash are partner universities so some of the application steps are done for you by the international officer.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The international office was great at responding to any questions relating to the exchange. My study advisor helped me as well, we planned what courses to take and talked about the exchange in general. For questions about the application or preparation, you can contact the international office. Also, the website from UU contains a lot of information and could possibly include your answer. We had a pre-departure meeting with all the students that would go to Monash as well, you should attend because you can ask questions and a lot of information is told.

academic preparation

Personally, I did not do any academic preparation. I just made a deal with myself that I had to pass my last two exams before I left so that I could fully enjoy my exchange. The university does have some requirements for English and GPA, but I did not have to do anything extra to meet those requirements.

language preparation

I did not do any language preparation for my exchange. I just assumed my English would be good enough to save myself Australia and it did. Special language preparation was not necessary, you learn to speak English better while you're in Australia anyway.

finances

From the moment I knew I wanted to do an exchange I started saving money. I already worked at a store, but for extra money, I started working in a COVID test place. I did save a decent amount for my exchange to Melbourne, but it still was pretty expensive. The rent I had to pay in Australia was double what I pay for my room in Utrecht. You could try to get a scholarship for Australia, but personally, I couldn't find one that suited me. While you're abroad you can still get studiefinanciering from DUO and instead of your normal studentenreisproduct you can apply for money compensation.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)



Monash University has a website where you can find all their courses, with information about content and if it is open for exchange students. I could actually choose whatever I wanted to do, but it had to be approved by the exam board. I did not experience any organisational issues with the courses in Melbourne, but if I had, there would be many people who could've helped me. The content of the courses was exactly what they have described on the website.

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality was more or less the same as here in the Netherlands, although it is maybe a bit easier and less stressful, how I experienced it at least. I had 10 weeks of teaching, with a break of one week, then after the 10 weeks of teaching I got one week off to study for exams and then you had to do your exams which were spread over a period of 4 weeks. For me, this was really different from what I am used to and I liked it better.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There was a lot of support and counselling if you need it. We started the semester with a big meeting that all the exchange students had to attend. They told us lots of stuff and we got to meet other students. The university has writing support for students from abroad for example (they sent you emails about this), and they had information markets at the beginning of the semester with all sorts of counselling and support groups.

transfer of credits

This was really easy, I just received an email on my Monash student account with information about what to do and how we would receive our credit points. I received a link with a pdf document containing the official records transcript. I could easily send this link to the exam board of my study.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

In the first 2 weeks or so, there were a lot of activities we could attend as international students, which was really fun and a great way to meet others. The welcome was a big meeting, where they told us a lot of information about the university policies and more. The orientation programme contained activities from visiting Philip island to feeding kangaroos, and you could join for free (you have to be quick with registration though). You had to do some modules before coming to Melbourne by the way, it was about alcohol regulation, diversity and sexual abuse.

accommodation

I lived on campus and that was relatively easy to apply for. I think there are pros and cons to living on campus, but overall I do not regret living on campus. The pros for me were that I knew where I was going to live before I came to Melbourne, I knew my own space was secured and did not have to stress about that anymore. I also really liked the fact that I was living in a hall with a lot of other exchange students but Aussies as well, so it was a good mix. The halls themselves do activities and free food occasionally as well. You live near your classes, so you can sleep in more if you would like. The cons of living on campus were that the campus is quite far from the city centre and you have to take the bus and train to get there, so nightlife and exploring the city is a bit harder but certainly not impossible. Even though I lived on campus I went to the city at least once a week, for clubbing, shopping or eating out. I think it is your own choice if you really want to focus on living on campus only or combining the best of both worlds. Personally, I really enjoyed combining the two, I got the experience of living on campus and in Melbourne itself.

leisure & culture

You can do lots of fun things in and around Melbourne. Because you get a week off in the semester, you can even travel a bit further and longer than the usual long weekends. There are lots of nice food spots and restaurants throughout Melbourne, you have nice neighbourhoods to discover and big shopping centres. There are also a lot of pubs and clubs with student/uni nights where drinks are very affordable, you can easily go



every night throughout the week and have student night at a different bar every night. In addition to the city and the CBD, Melbourne has a beach as well. During the semester I travelled, among other destinations, to Sydney and Bali. In Melbourne, the coffee is really good and you also have to try sandwich shops, amazing. For culture, you can go to museums and also the university does activities for the culture of their ancestors about the land of the Kulin nations. I really love to go out and for me, that is part of the culture too, Melbourne has great night life and you cannot miss out if you go to Melbourne.

suggestions/tips

If you want to live on campus you should apply as soon as you can to have the best chance of allocation. If you want to live in the city you should make a plan on where you are going to live the first couple of weeks etc, because finding a place off campus from overseas is quite hard from what I heard. Also, try to attend as many of the activities and orientation stuff as possible, this is the best way to meet your new friends and it is fun as well. Try to travel during the semester and during the break, that way you can see more of Australia and the places near Melbourne. The great ocean road is a must-do for a nice weekend away with your friends.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, I would definitely recommend going on an exchange in the first place. I really enjoyed my time abroad, I probably would have loved it in any other place as well. But, Monash University is a really great university for international students, they have tons of activities and there is a lot of diversity to be found in people but also in education in my opinion. Furthermore, I loved seeing parts of Australia and Melbourne is a nice city as well, a lot of cool nightlife and good food, coffee and restaurants.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

If you're in doubt about doing a semester abroad, just do it. It really is worth it.

Can students contact you for additional info and do you give us permission to put this in the student reports on our website? If yes, please write down how they can get in touch with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)

Contact info available at the IO.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	University College Roosevelt
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Liberal Arts & Sciences

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	02 / 07 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	22 / 01 / 2023 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was fairly extensive but not too complicated. Make sure to start ahead of time to consider where you would like to go, what courses might be interesting to you and what documents etc you might need for your application.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

Both the exchange office at UU as well as the exchange coordinator at UCR were helpful with answering questions. Keep in mind that UU sometimes takes a few days to reply so ask questions as early as possible.

academic preparation

I did not have to prepare anything academically.

language preparation

As my bachelor program at UCR is in English, I did not have to prepare.

finances

I had been saving up money to go to Australia for a while, especially thanks to a delay of my exchange due to Covid. I made a budget to see how much money I would need and where it would come from. However, I ended up spending even more money than I had anticipated, mostly on traveling. Personally, I would recommend to save as much as you can and take out some loans if necessary and reasonable. You are only here once and it is amazing to actually have the opportunity to do all the fun things that you can here.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I was lucky enough to get to choose very freely what courses I wanted to take abroad. The uni was structured in a similar way to what I was used to, with a student taking three of four courses every semester. Signing up for classes was easy and the Monash was flexible with allowing changes up to the week before classes started. Make sure you know how allocate+ works in order to make the best timetable possible (I only had to be at uni two days of the week).

academic quality of education activities

The academic quality my classes at Monash was similar to what I was used to from home. Professors were engaged with their students, my classes were small and the material similar. However, I felt like the grading was much more generous and it was fairly easy to get very good grades.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There is plenty of support services at Monash so make sure to use them if you need anything. Everybody is usually very helpful.

transfer of credits

My credits have not been transferred yet, however, so far the process has been very easy.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Definitely make sure to attend orientation. I started in the winter semester in Australia, which meant that the orientation week was a bit smaller, but it was still very fun. Monash offered several excursions to cool places such as a wildlife sanctuary and other local attractions as well as an AFL game. Make sure to sign up for these as early as possible as spots fill up quickly. Personally, it was a bit strange to me how little parties there were organized by the uni during orientation. However, there was still plenty of opportunities to have fun. I would recommend going to as many orientation events as possible. I met most of my closest friends during orientation and learned a lot about Melbourne, Monash and how everything works.

accommodation

I lived on Clayton campus. If you want to live on campus, make sure to apply early (even before you have been accepted by Monash – I applied as soon as I heard from UU that I would be nominated for Monash). Living on campus is very nice and social, and obviously it is convenient to be so close to classes and events. Also living on campus means that you do not have to look for accommodation when arriving to Melbourne. However, it is important to realize that the Monash Clayton campus is far outside the city center. To reach places like the CBD, St Kilda etc takes at least an hour one way. It is important to consider what kind of experience you want from your exchange. None of my friends that looked for housing when they arrived to Melbourne has major issues and all of them found a place within two or three weeks at most. Even though I loved living on campus, I would probably choose a place in the city if I would go again (mainly because most of my friends lived in the city). I recommend the area around South Yarra as it is very centrally located and pretty nice. Otherwise Fitzroy, the CBD and St Kilda can be nice to live in depending on what you are looking for.

leisure & culture

Melbourne is pretty much the cultural and sports capital of Australia and has a lot to offer. I recommend signing up for newsletters from Time Out Melbourne and similar ones as they keep you updated about events going on (and there are plenty always!). Make sure to visit the MCG at least once. Melbourne also has great nightlife with opportunities to go out almost every day of the week, so I definitely recommend to make use of those. Go to Workers on Monday!

suggestions/tips

Start exploring the city from the beginning. I thought I had so much time, which in the end meant I felt like there was so much I did not get to see. Do a free walking tour for a good overview of the city and some fun recommendations Victoria as a state has plenty to offer, especially when it comes to outdoor activities. The Grampians, Wilson's Prom, the Alpine Region and the Great Ocean Road are all examples of awesome places to visit for a long weekend. Make sure to schedule your classes in a way that you can have a long weekend every weekend. Keep on top of your work from the beginning – this will allow you to keep traveling towards the end of the semester. Joining the Monash Boardriders for a surf trip is super fun. There are plenty of clubs to choose from for everybody's interests!

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain



Definitely! Monash is a very good university, Melbourne is an amazing city and Australia is a beautiful and really fun country! Make sure to save up enough money and leave plenty of time for traveling after the semester is done.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Ask previous exchange students for advice but also just go and explore.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Faculty of Science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Pharmacy

destination city & country	Melbourne, Australia
name university abroad	Monash University
start date	09 / 07 / 2022
end date	18 / 11 / 2022

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was quite stressful for me. Applying for an exchange, finding a place to live, and getting a visa took a long time for me. The application at Utrecht University was straightforward. After being selected by Utrecht University I also needed to be approved by Monash University. After approval by Monash I received the International Student Course Agreement which I needed to fill in along with choosing Overseas Student Health Coverage, which is mandatory. When this was approved I received the Confirmation of Enrolment which is required for visa application. Applying for a visa was an annoying task which took up a lot of time. In my case, it took a long time before my visa was approved (around a month). This was because I had to do a health check at a general practitioner that is approved by the Australian government (I still don't know why I had to do this as I haven't heard of anyone else who had to). This took up a few weeks and cost me €250. The GP took my vitals and they took an X-ray of my chest. Finally a few days later my visa was approved. Applying for on-campus housing is a different process which also required some steps but those were relatively easy.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The Study Abroad weeks helped to get some answers on what I wanted to do for exchange. The International Office helped me with some questions I had about the application process.

academic preparation

I did not need any academic preparation. I already finished all of my course units so I took four elective units at Monash. Monash University has a great unit handbook which shows any required units. Most units had some requirements noted which I didn't have but that was no problem, I was still approved for them.

language preparation

VWO English was enough for Monash so I had no need of further language preparation.

finances

Life in Australia is quite expensive. I do recommend creating some financial plan and saving up as much as possible. My price reference from earlier exchange students was from 2 years ago due to COVID so it was difficult to make a good estimation of the cost of living. Living on campus for a semester cost around €3500 (I heard it got more expensive this year). However, a nice room in the city centre may be even more expensive. Cost of living (groceries, public transport, going out) cost around €3000-3500 (rough estimate) for me during the semester, excluding travels afterward. Keep in mind, the flights are extremely costly. I recommend booking a flight to Melbourne as early as possible when you hear from Monash when you are expected to arrive (for me 9th of July as I lived on campus and had to attend introduction). I do not recommend booking your flight home already as you want to be flexible with travelling after the semester. Keep in mind that alcohol is extremely



expensive in Australia.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I was approved for all the 8 units which I applied for. From these 8 I made the following selection of 4 units that I have followed during my semester abroad: 'Conservation Biology', 'Archaeology and Ancient History 2', 'How to Write a Popular Song', and 'Men, Masculinity and Society'. I had no issues regarding picking my units.

academic quality of education activities

I'd say that difficulty is comparable to Utrecht University, but the workload is a bit higher. This is because there are a lot off graded assignments during the semester. This, in combination with the fact that you have 4 units at the same time, makes it sometimes difficult to keep track of everything. However, I really liked all the units I followed. I recommend taking at least one 1st level units (for first years). This gives you enough time to focus on possibly more difficult units and allows for some time to explore Melbourne. I took one 1st level units and three 2nd level units. I know from other exchange students that units can get way more difficult from 3rd level.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Teachers are extremely helpful at Monash, if you need help, don't hesitate to ask. The same goes for MRS (if you want to live on campus). In general, Australians are very relaxed and kind and want to help in any way possible.

transfer of credits

This was easy for me, I received my transcript in My eEquals and shared it with Utrecht University. A few days later I received my credits in Osiris.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

I had to attend the orientation for MRS (living on campus) and of Monash University itself. This was a two week process. The MRS orientation was perfect: you meet over 100 people in just a couple of days. You are put in a group with all other new residents (mostly exchanges like you) so you make a lot of new friends early on. These two weeks are packed with fun activities which you can attend. In my opinion, the first week was one of the best. However, the second week I got COVID so I had to quarantine which was horrible: I was put in another room in another building reserved for quarantining people and I wasn't allowed to go outside for a week.

accommodation

I can't stress this enough: apply for on-campus housing. There are two options: Residential Village and Urban Community. I lived in the Residential village and recommend this to everyone. It has shared facilities which may be seen as a downside but that is what allowed for socialising. The best part of residential village and living on campus is the living together with 200 other students, cooking together, playing games together and going out together. All friends I've made lived in the Residential Village. I have made a lot of amazing friends at Roberts Hall which I miss dearly now that I'm back in The Netherlands. The room was around €750 per month, which is cheaper than the Urban Community. Living in the city will probably be more expensive. The room is not amazing but it does the job; it has everything in it that you need. The only downside of living on campus is the fact you are kind of bound to campus. It takes around an hour to get into the city so I ended up going once every few weeks (excluding going out).

leisure & culture

Clayton Campus is beautiful. It was nice to sometimes just walk around there. Every hall in the Residential Village has a projector room for movies, and there is a games room with pool tables and a table tennis table.



There are a few bars close by, I do recommend The Nott every Thursday evening. Melbourne has some pretty nice places such as the botanical gardens, Southbank, Fitzroy and Carlton. Some nice beaches are at St. Kilda, Brighton and Mordialloc. There is plenty to explore in Melbourne.

suggestions/tips

Apply for on-campus housing unless you are 100% certain you want to live in the city. I know from others that they regret not living on campus because the residential village is super social. Plan travels at least a couple of weeks beforehand: flight and hostel prices increase like crazy and some places might simply be booked out a week beforehand. If you plan early you can save a lot of money.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, honestly, living in Melbourne was the time of my life. I will cherish a lot of memories and I have made some friends for life who live all across the globe. You will not regret going to Australia for your exchange.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't be afraid to try new things. Moving away from your standard environment in The Netherlands allows you to start from scratch and develop new habits. For example, I became a vegetarian when I moved to Australia and now that I am back I still am. Try a new sport, maybe go skydiving it's all possible!

Can students contact you for additional info and do you give us permission to put this in the student reports on our website? If yes, please write down how they can get in touch with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)

Contact info available at the IO.